Creation of railway division in Orissa

2376. SHRI RAMA CHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways have any proposal to create two railway divisions in Orissa at Rourkela and Jajpur-Keonjhar road;

(b) whether in all other zones, divisions are already created; and

(c) if so, why not in East Coast Railway Zone?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) and (b) No, Sir. New Divisions have been set up only on eight Zonal Railways *i.e.* (i) Pune on Central Railway; (ii) Agra on North Central Railway; (iii) Rangiya on Northeast Frontier Railway; (iv) Guntur and (v) Nanded on South Central Railway; (vi) Raipur on South East Central Railway; (vii) Ranchi on South Eastern Railway; (viii) Salem on Southern Railway; and (ix) Ahmedabad on Western Railway.

(c) New Divisions are set up keeping in view the factors like size, workload, accessibility, traffic pattern and other operating/administrative requirements consistent with the needs of economy and efficiency without any regional considerations.

New rail service in Rajasthan

†2377. DR. PRABHA THAKUR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of proposals pending with Government for starting new rail service in Rajasthan; and

(b) the number of proposals received from the State Government of Rajasthan and the number of proposals approved alongwith the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) and (b) Examination and action taken on representations received from various quarters, is a continuous process.

Further, for the State of Rajasthan, 11 pairs of new trains, extension of 4 pairs and increase in the frequency of 2 pairs of trains have been announced in Railway Budget 2009-2010.

Undue recoveries in Railways

†2378. SHRI PRABHAT JHA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is going to make any provision to stop undue recoveries taking place in Railways;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the steps that Government is going to take for the safety of passengers in trains; and

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(d) the steps being taken to standardize the basic amenities of passengers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) and (b) Development charge is levied as per distance and class of the travel, Reservation charge is levied as per class of the travel and Superfast charge is levied on trains meeting the speed criterion.

(c) Steps are taken to prevent accidents and ensure safe operation of trains through intensive maintenance of assets upgradation and timely replacements of safety related assets in addition to using technology and adequate training of manpower.

For security of passengers, important Mail/Express trains are escorted by RPF/GRP. Passengers are also made aware through Public Address System and media regarding precautions to be taken. Co-ordination meetings are held with GRP at different levels to contain crime in stations and in trains.

(d) Based on annual earnings, railway stations have been divided into seven categories *viz.*, A-1, A, B, C, D, E and F. The standards (norms) for passenger amenities have been laid down for each category of station.

Security of Railways' property and passengers

2379. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Railways which had cash surplus to the tune of Rs. 90,000 crore are finding it difficult to strengthen security of Railways' property and passengers;

(b) whether Chairman, Railway Board has conveyed to Ministry of Home Affairs that measures to strengthen security in trains and at railway stations were being held up due to lack of funds, which include augmentation of staff in Railway Protection Force and acquiring state of the art security equipments like CCTV etc.; and

(c) if so, to what extent they have been provided funds to meet shortage of funds on security of Railways?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) No, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) In Works Programme 2009-10, approval has been accorded for implementation of 'Integrated Security System' at 195 sensitive stations of the country at an estimated cost of Rs. 344.31 crore.

Rs. 67.09 crores have been sanctioned to RPF for procurement of security equipment.

Proposal is also being sent to the Ministry of Finance for creation of 5,134 non-gazetted posts in RPF.

Modern arms and ammunition worth Rs. 10.91 crores have been procured for RPF personnel during the year 2008-09.